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# WORK

*A Journal of Progress*



The Pan American Union Building



Published Monthly  
by the  
District of Columbia  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Washington, D. C.  
George E. Allen  
Administrator

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*THROUGH democratic processes we can strive to achieve for the Americas the highest possible standard of living conditions for all our people. Men and women blessed with political freedom, willing to work and able to find work, rich enough to maintain their families and to educate their children, contented with their lot in life and on terms of friendship with their neighbors, will defend themselves to the utmost, but will never consent to take up arms for a war of conquest.*

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Buenos Aires

Dec. 1, 1936

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# WHAT WE DID in the Nation's Capital



By

*Melvin C. Hazen*

*President, District of Columbia  
Board of Commissioner*

**T**O SAY the District of Columbia has been fortunate in having relatively few of her citizens drastically affected by the recent economic crisis is somewhat ambiguous.

In the Capital of the United States, a city with few heavy industries, a considerable group of people suffered greatly because of adverse economic conditions. The needs of these people are not generally known. Although they represent a small percentage of the general population, their individual cases are most distressing.

It has been in helping these men and women and their dependents that the Works Progress Administration has found an opportunity to carry out its double-edged program—that of giving work to the unemployed and providing material and lasting benefits to the municipality. Since the inception of the WPA in the District of Columbia, there has been a fluctuating roll of about 10,000 persons receiving work relief.

I firmly believe that the answer to this problem was in the provision of work—work that provided the urgent necessities of life, and, above all, maintained the worker's morale and respectability. There is no doubt that work is the proper method of meeting unemployment as compared with the dole and idleness.

By following such a program, the District of Columbia is doing useful and needed work in providing construction benefits that



MELVIN C. HAZEN

would be impossible under present municipal financing.

Assigned to tasks in virtually every department of the District Government are thousands of men and women—white collar workers, skilled craftsmen and laborers.

This auxiliary help has come at an opportune time. In recent years Congressional allocations set aside to run the District Government have been seriously curtailed. In the wake of this shortened budget a vast amount of routine work has been relegated to the "back files" of many departments. It is upon this back work that the Works Progress Administration has been directing its major effort.

Improvements to streets, sewers, playgrounds, schools and hospitals brought about by the WPA are well known to all of us.

With new roads being cut through wooded sections where residential expansion is taking

place and with scores of old streets being resurfaced, the aid brought to our Highway Department has been incalculable.

Antiquated sewers, built for an era of the past, are being replaced to meet the additional demands of today's standard of living.

Under the supervision of the Traffic Bureau, WPA has completed a survey of virtually every important intersection in the city. Based on the results of this survey, projects are under way to correct the position and timing of traffic lights.

Landscaping and improving of almost every recreational center in the city has been one of the most important assignments of the WPA ever since it was started. Severe damage to the waterfront and parks, caused by the floods of last spring, has been greatly corrected by large forces of WPA workers. Approximately two score circles and triangles in city streets have been landscaped and re-seeded.

At Walter Reed, Gallinger, Freedman's and Children's Tuberculosis hospitals material improvements have been effected to buildings and grounds. Similar benefits have been brought about at more than a score of public schools throughout the city.

These accomplishments, and many others, have been indeed welcome. They have directly and indirectly benefited each of us. However, I am particularly enthusiastic over the renewed faith and hope which the Works Progress Administration has brought to the needy of the District. It is our duty and obligation to maintain these people and help them keep their families together.

# WORK

*A Journal of Progress*

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WORKS PROGRESS

ADMINISTRATION

George E. Allen,

Administrator

December, 1936

Vol. I

No. 4

Work, or lose the power to will.

—John Sullivan Dwight

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## IT'S YOUR WPA

*—working for you and your city, accomplishing notable lasting improvements. Property values are enhanced; men and women are given gainful work. You should inspect these projects and judge their merits for yourself.*

## Help Wanted

LIKE the poor, unemployment is always with us. It was generally ignored in the past, for as a Nation we still sincerely believed that anyone who really wanted work could find it.

Today private industry is cooperating with the Federal Government in its effort to provide greater employment. Yet, in spite of the rapid recovery under the Roosevelt Administration, millions of people still remain unemployed.

Even the most ardent admirer of the humane policy of the Administration can hardly fail to realize that it is not a solution of the problem. Those who administer the Federal work program fully appreciate this fact.

For months the Roosevelt Administration pleaded with private industry to "take up the slack." Industry has shown a willingness to cooperate in the reemployment campaign.

As we approach the end of the year, it becomes increasingly evident that business is rapidly returning to normal levels. Revenue returns, annual reports, increased production and dividends are mute testimony of new prosperity. Industry raised wages, and even gave bonuses, but employment still lags behind production. Additional help is needed to remedy the unemployment situation.

The only solution for most of our economic ills will be found in work. Either this will be provided by private industry, or the Government will have to continue to employ the needy. One thing seems certain—President Roosevelt will not let people starve in a land of plenty.

## Another Road to Work

UNDER the recovery program of the Roosevelt Administration, there have been two principal methods of finding work for the unemployed. Two major recovery agencies have been charged with this grave responsibility.

Readers of WORK are generally familiar with the activities of the Works Progress Administration in this connection, but they may not be so well acquainted with the Public Works Administration. Much has been written about PWA, not all of it illuminating, much of it biased, and some of it downright inaccurate.

It is with this thought in mind that WORK takes pleasure in presenting to its readers the article on PWA in the current issue, written by the best authority on that subject, the Honorable Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of Interior.

## The New Spirit

THE District of Columbia, in line with communities up and down the land, is preparing the fattest Christmas stocking since that mad era sometimes called "the good old days."

Happy, jostling shoppers jam the stores and crowd the sidewalks. Merchants predict the heaviest volume of sales since 1929. Charitable agencies report a flood of toys and clothing.

But more important than these material blessings, we believe, is evidence of a reborn Christmas *spirit*, a broad manifestation of man's responsibility to man.

Perhaps the late lamented depression served to revitalize humanity, intensify unselfishness.

If so, it served some purpose after all.

# The Story of PWA

By  
*Harold L. Ickes*

*Secretary of the Interior and  
PWA Administrator*

THREE and a half years have gone into history since those fateful days when President Roosevelt gave us the order to get under way the largest public works program of all time. To date there has been spent on Public Works Administration projects some \$1,600,000,000 for materials and supplies. The biggest part of this has gone directly to labor.

It is my honest conviction that the Public Works Administration has performed a difficult task in an efficient manner. PWA has proved itself an effective instrument of recovery; it has given employment at prevailing wages to millions of persons; it has kept thousands off the relief rolls; and it has been the means of affording a fresh start to many a disheartened family.

All of the credit for this achievement does not belong to the Federal Government alone. We have had magnificent cooperation and help from States, counties and municipalities, without which our undertaking would not have been a success.

The Public Works Administration welcomes the most rigid inspection of its projects. We know that first-class workmanship and the best of materials have been employed with the result that the taxpayer has obtained full value for every dollar spent. I urge every citizen who has not already done so to go to the nearest completed PWA project and see for himself what we have accomplished.

An intensive two-year factual study just completed by the impartial United States Bureau of



HAROLD L. ICKES

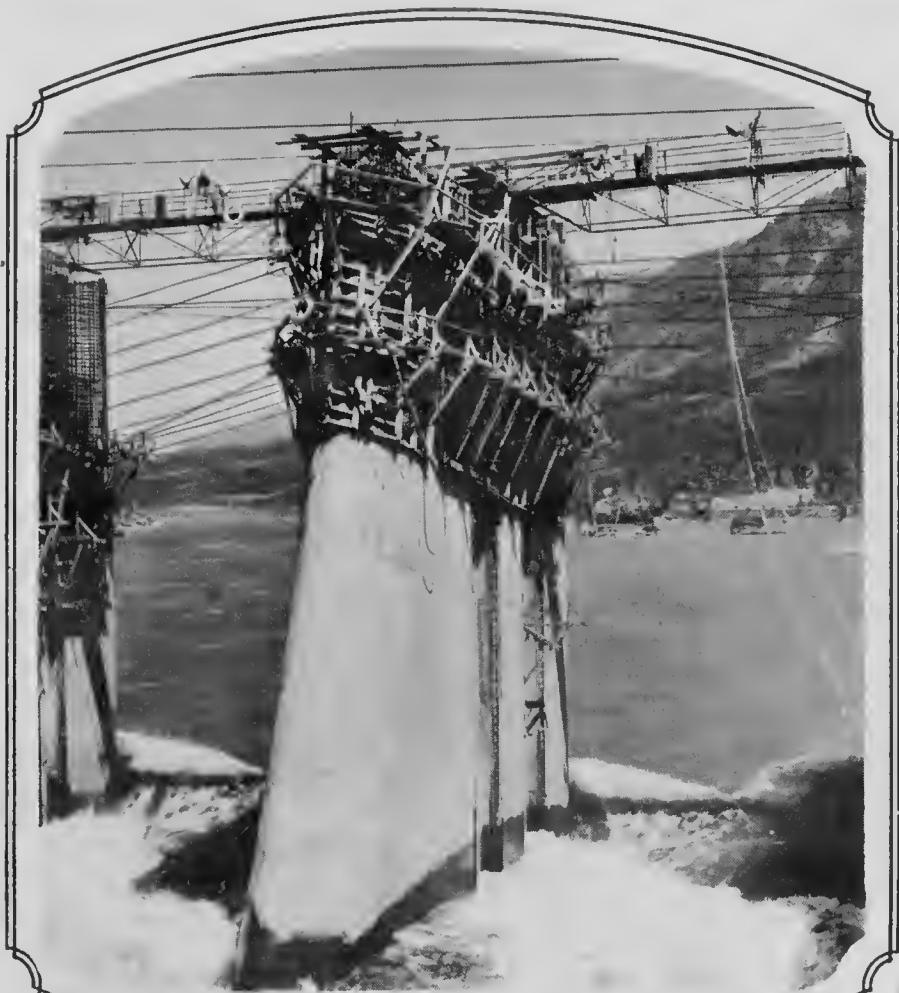
Labor Statistics shows that the Public Works Administration creates two and one-half times more work in private industries supplying building materials than it does in the building trades constructing its projects. Reduced to its simplest terms, this means that when it is reported that a particular PWA project will provide 1,000,000 man-hours of work at the site the additional employment provided, including off the site or "behind the lines" employment, is 2,500,000 man-hours, making a total of 3,500,000 man-hours.

I shall now discuss briefly the future of public works in the United States. I do not want it to be understood that I assume to speak with authority on this sub-

ject. I can only tell you what my hopes are.

I am thoroughly convinced that the soundest possible public policy at a time of economic depression is the prompt undertaking of a far-flung program of substantial public works. I am firmly convinced that if we had had a program of public works ready to embark upon when this Administration came into power in March, 1933, and if Congress had promptly appropriated, not three billions of dollars but a much larger sum with which to undertake that program, we would have experienced recovery much earlier and in greater volume than we have had it.

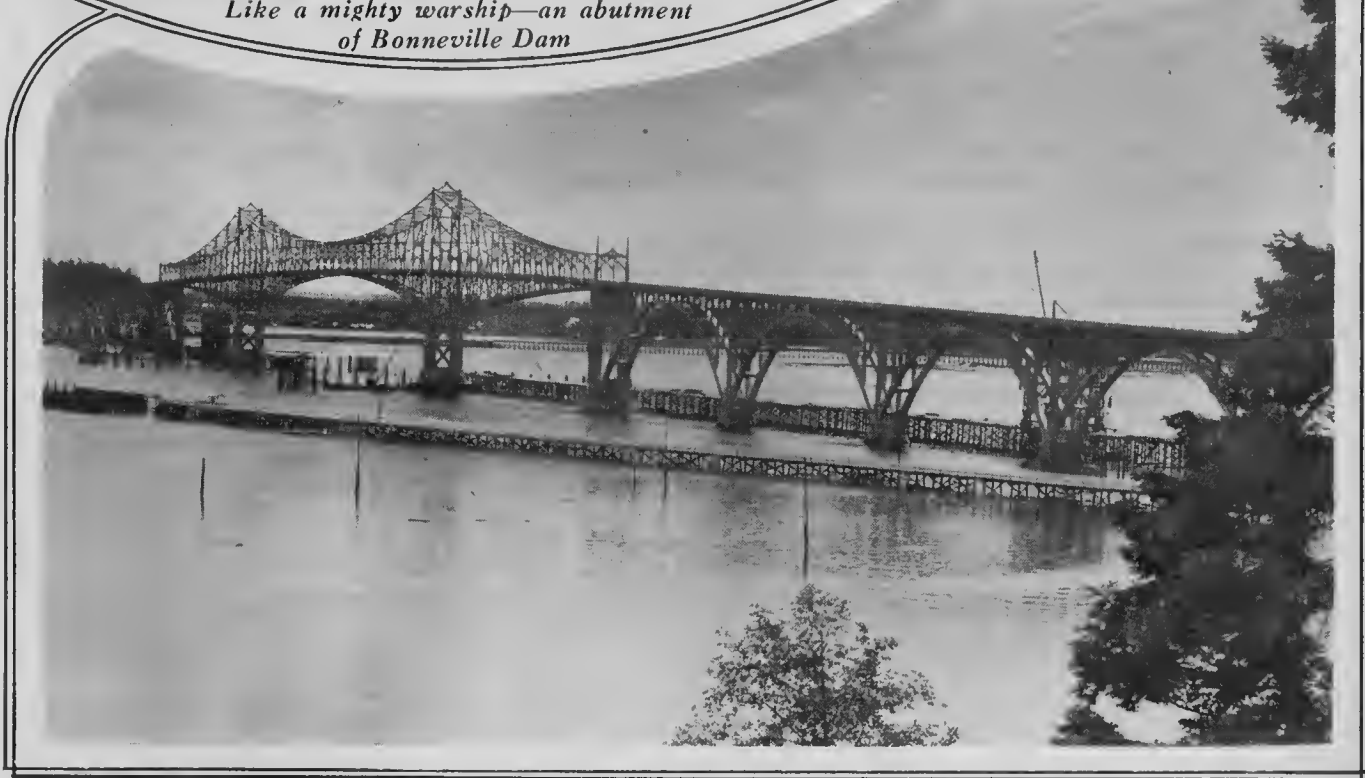
I believe that the Public Works



*Like a mighty warship—an abutment  
of Bonneville Dam*

Administration should be made a permanent agency of Government. The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works will expire by limitation of law on June 30 next. On that date many projects will be uncompleted. Necessarily a law should be passed at least giving PWA time within which to complete the task that it has already undertaken.

But for my part, I am hoping for more than this. Even if the necessity for a continuation of building on the present scale no longer exists, we must think of the future. There is no assurance, based upon the past, that we will not find ourselves in another depression in the years to come. We hope that this will not be the case, but probably there exists in the hearts of all of us a lurking fear that, after all, this hope is just a hope.



*Coos Bay Bridge, near North Bend, Oregon. Largest of five bridges constructed with an allotment of \$5,500,000 from PWA.*



If there should be another depression we must not be unprepared as we were when the last one struck us. As an irreducible minimum we should maintain a public works general staff. We should have a reservoir of well-considered, carefully-planned projects, work on which could be undertaken as soon as the necessity arose and money was made available for them.

Now, as to the immediate future of public works, and here also I am expressing only my personal views: I believe that it will be necessary to round out and



❖  
*Techwood Drive, Atlanta, Ga.,  
before and after P W A spent  
\$3,000,000 eliminating an 11-block  
slum area and substituted modern  
housing*  
❖



complete our program by making allocations for limited additional projects. We are working with that end in view. However, I believe that PWA should immediately set about to retrench all along the line. I am not in favor of approving projects for States or communities to which a large measure of prosperity has already returned. I am unwilling to approve the expenditure of more Federal money in sections that are as prosperous as they ever have been in the past; or even more prosperous.

There is another public function which PWA might properly perform. Take the case of a municipality where the banks are insisting upon an unreasonably high interest rate as a condition precedent to floating a bond issue for a school or sewage system or some other needed improvement. In such an instance PWA might very well offer to take the bonds of that municipality at a reasonable rate and thus prevent it from being bludgeoned into paying an exorbitant rate of interest.

It will be realized at once that such policies as I have suggested would mean that wide discretionary powers should be lodged in the Administration of Public Works. It can be seen that it would be no easy task to resist the insistence on the part of one city that it should be given a 45 per cent grant on a project merely because another city had been so favored, even although the first city was in so much sounder an

economic condition that it did not need so much help.

One important task will be to educate, not only the people, but those who are in public life, that help ought to be related to need. It would be a major misfortune if Public Works should ever degenerate into a "pork barrel." Better no public works program at all than such a result.

Low-rent housing projects fall into a somewhat different category than the usual run of public works projects. Housing is the most vital social challenge before us today. It is a problem which profoundly affects our cities and the lives of our people. It is an issue that is squarely up to the urban communities of this country. PWA with its demonstration program of some 50 projects has made a start. The first of these is now operating in Atlanta, Ga. More are getting ready to open their doors, and we expect to have the entire lot in operation next year.

The Federal Government was willing to blaze the way on housing, but the time has come when municipal Governments must realize that the chief responsibility is their own, a responsibility, however, which should be shared by the States and even by private citizens. The Federal Government alone cannot continue to carry the load. But it should be willing to make loans and grants to cities to aid in low-cost housing. The grants should be generous and the loans at low interest rates.

The Wagner-Ellenbogen housing bill, passed last year by the Senate, definitely recognizes housing as a municipal responsibility. The Public Works Administration supported that bill. Senator Wagner recently declared that he would again introduce a similar bill and he has expressed the belief that this year it will be passed by Congress.

It is probably not necessary to call attention to what President Roosevelt said in New York recently about his desire to have a housing program which will enable our people to live under decent conditions. You will recall that he stated that his administration would find a way to wipe out slums, and to provide proper housing for those families that now are unable, by reason of their small incomes, to live decently.

If PWA is to be made a permanent agency of our Government, it goes without saying that the success of any future program will depend upon the patriotism of our citizens and the degree of disinterested cooperation between the Federal Government, the States and the political subdivisions of the States. To date we have made a great record. Now we must consolidate our gains. On the basis of experience, we must prepare ourselves for the future. To do this we must extend our vision beyond today, or even tomorrow, and into the years of destiny that lie ahead.



*Recently completed Triborough Bridge, New York City*



# Farming Under the Arctic Sun



*Matanuska—a new “Happy Valley” in Alaska*

By  
*Anthony J. Dimond*

*Delegate from Alaska*

**I**N THE Matanuska Valley of Alaska, lying between the mountains and the sea, a wilderness is steadily being converted into farm lands.

In the spring of 1935 the Federal Government undertook to aid 200 selected families of farmers then on relief and residing in the northern parts of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota by transplanting them to the Matanuska Valley.

A tract of 40 acres was set aside in the valley for each family. The settlers were assisted in building their houses, barns and other necessary buildings; they were provided with food, clothing, tools and equipment as well as live-

stock. These settlers were also assisted in clearing the land, most of which was covered with a very thick and sturdy growth of trees.

Practically all of the first summer, that of 1935, was spent in constructing the necessary dwelling houses and other buildings, after first clearing the sites. During the winter of 1935-36 the clearing of the land was carried on, although the stumps could not be pulled until spring.

Of the 200 families originally brought to the valley, approximately 140 remain. And of those 140 families not one desires to leave; all are satisfied with conditions and even more satisfied with the opportunity to make a home and eventually a competence by farming in Alaska.

Of the 60 families who left, little can be said except that most of them should not have been

sent to Alaska in the first place for one reason or another. Others were simply unfortunate and felt obliged to leave by circumstances that could not have been foreseen when they came to the Territory. The wastage, if it may be called that, of less than one-third of the settlement is much less than the failures which have occurred in many other pioneer settlements.

The Matanuska Valley settlement is succeeding and there is no reason why it should not succeed. Farming in Alaska is bound to be a success when carried on by industrious people who are afforded an access to market. Those who designed and carried out the Matanuska Valley farm program saw to it that roads were built to each settler's homestead. All roads were connected by a highway to the principal local market, the city of

Anchorage, which is situated about 40 miles from the settlement.

In order to make farming a success anywhere, two things at least are necessary besides having a market for the surplus produce: Soil and climate. Matanuska has them both.

In arriving at the facts with respect to the soil and climate of the Matanuska Valley we need not rely upon any one individual's unsupported opinion. For a number of years the Department of Agriculture maintained an agricultural experiment station in the Matanuska Valley. A few years ago this station was turned over to the University of Alaska, and is now operated under the supervision of the University. This experiment station has kept a record of the climate of the valley; it has made a thorough examination as to the soil. The records and findings are on file in the Department and may be found in several of the books and circulars published officially by the Department.

The average frost-free period in the Matanuska Valley is 130 days, from May 15 to September 22. Hence the growing season in the valley is as long as that in portions of the northern part of the continental United States.

But Alaska has one advantage not possessed by these States. During the summer time Alaska has much more sunlight, thus greatly accelerating plant growth of all kinds. In the Matanuska Valley, for example, in midsummer the sun is above the horizon 20 hours a day; even as early as April 15 the valley has 14 hours of sunshine. For several weeks during midsummer there is practically no darkness.

The number of hours of sunshine enjoyed by Alaska in the summer is worthy of further comment. During the course of the year Alaska enjoys as much sunlight as California or New York, but in Alaska the sunlight is largely concentrated during the summer months and greatly reduced during the winter months. Hence in the Matanuska Valley and in other parts of Alaska crops grow very rapidly. In places like the Matanuska Valley, where on the average the spring and fall frosts are 130 days apart, there is sufficient time to grow and mature grains and vegetables.

Many people have heard about the enormous rainfall of Alaska. It is true that along the coast of Alaska the precipitation is very heavy, but that is not true of the Matanuska Valley. The total an-

nual rainfall in the valley ranges from about 12 to 20 inches. The region is free from tornadoes and severe electrical storms; in fact, thunder and lightning occur so rarely as to be almost unknown.

The soil, locally known as knik loam, is deep, varying from three to 20 feet, and very fertile. All types of grasses, grains and vegetables grow readily and rapidly. Even in dry weather the soil does not harden and it retains its moisture exceedingly well. It will be many, many years before any fertilizer is needed in this soil by reason of its exceptional depth, for when the top soil is partially exhausted it will be necessary only to plow deeper and bring up identically the same type of soil from underneath.

Good water for domestic use is obtainable on all of the farms, although most of it must be had from wells ranging from 15 to 60 feet in depth.

The market for the surplus produce of these farmers is almost at their doors. The city of Anchorage alone can absorb all of it, provided there is a balanced production. It is generally considered that the Matanuska farmers will find it most profitable to raise cattle, hogs, sheep and chickens, as well as vegetables. The market is limited not only to Anchorage, but is to be found also in the surrounding mining camps. Moreover, the Alaska Railroad runs through the colony and thus affords an opportunity to ship surplus produce to Seward, Fairbanks and other places.

Some question has been made about the quality of the grains and vegetables raised in Alaska. From my own experience, as well as from the testimony of others, I know that the quality generally is excellent.

The Matanuska colony is on the road to success. It is as much of a success now as any such venture could be at this stage.

Alaska can easily support an equal number of people. Of course, hard work and plenty of it is required. Alaska is no place for the lazy or the shiftless.



*Neighborly help erects settler's cabin*

# Never Too Old To Learn

A HALF million grown-up Americans, some of them more than 80 years of age, have learned to read and write within the last three years under the Administration's emergency education program.

More than 6,600 formerly unemployed instructors are teaching 266,630 additional persons to read and write and indications are that before the end of the year a half-million more students will be enrolled in literacy classes—about one-eighth of the nation's approximately 4,000,000 illiterates.

These are highlights in recent reports to Dr. L. R. Alderman, director of the Works Progress Administration's Education Division. But there are others.

The total enrollment in all classes of adult education as of May 31 was 1,826,034.

More than 40,500 teachers were engaged in holding 117,203 classes or instructional units under the division's program, which is nation-wide.

The largest number of students was registered in general adult education classes, an enrollment of 785,701.

Vocational education classes were helping to rehabilitate 261,512 handicapped persons while 87,862 parents were enrolled in classes teaching them how better to rear their children.

Nursery school enrollment totaled 52,509 and education for workers reached 60,823.

Other features of the program included emergency college centers which enabled 8,232 young folk to do college work. They were financially unable to attend regular colleges. More than 17,000 students were registered in correspondence study courses.



Said Deputy Administrator Aubrey W. Williams:

"Reports on the program continue to prove satisfactory. This should augur well for an even better rounded program next year.

The literacy program has many picturesque aspects.

In Carbon County, Utah, 623 miners registered for Americanization classes. They organized so fast there was no time to obtain supplies. But they accepted any makeshift. Men up to 63 years of age learned to read and write from primers borrowed from the public schools. Classes were held five nights a week, but that was not enough. The men asked for instruction on Saturdays and Sundays. When it was suggested the teachers might need a rest, the men reluctantly agreed.

One request came from Maine for more money to make it possible to enroll 600 from the

French district along the St. John River. A county in Tennessee reported a registration of 211 students up to the age of 77 years, who were living in nine communities. In Wyoming, Indians who could neither read nor write came to class from the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indian Reservations.

Reports of new employment obtained as a result of WPA vocational training classes continue to gain. In Spokane, Wash., seven members of a class in Diesel engineering completed their course and left town to take jobs operating Diesel engines.

In New Orleans is a distinctive school where instruction in radio work is given. From this one school 17 wireless operators have passed Federal examinations, obtained licenses and are now at work aboard ships or in broadcasting stations.

# Your Health First

SAVE for his superior mental capacity, man enjoys no particular advantage over other forms of life in his unending struggle against disease. Therefore the most important weapon in that struggle is the application of scientific methods in protecting his health. And there begins the far-flung work of the United States Public Health Service.

The organization had its origin in the Marine Hospital Service, established by act of Congress July 16, 1798. By terms of this act the President appointed "medical officers to care for sick and disabled seamen in ports and other places in the United States as presented needs for services of this nature."

A tax of 20 cents a month, collected by the Customs Office from all seamen on American vessels, was the method prescribed to finance the Marine Hospital Service. For this reason the Public Health Service is a unit of the Treasury Department today.

In 1889 Congress authorized re-organization of the Marine Hospital Service along military lines. Soon after the turn of the century the name was changed to "Public Health and Marine Hospital Service" and in 1912 this was reduced to that now borne by the Service. These revisions reflected the ever-expanding scope of its duties.

As organized at present, the Surgeon General administers the affairs of the U. S. Public Health Service through the following divisions: Scientific research, marine hospitals and relief, foreign and insular quarantine, domestic (interstate) quarantine, sanitary reports and statistics, venereal diseases, mental hygiene, and personnel and accounts.



*WPA microbe hunter*

Whereas the Service originally benefited only disabled seamen, today its duties dip into many fields. It protects the country from the introduction of disease by examining all prospective immigrants and cargoes; prevents or suppresses any epidemic which might run rampant throughout the States; and cooperates with State and local health authorities.

The Public Health Service also maintains laboratories for the supervision and control of biologic products; treats persons addicted to the use of habit-forming narcotic drugs who have committed offenses against the United States and of addicts who voluntarily submit themselves for treatment. It studies all the diseases of man and investigates the legitimate needs for narcotic drugs; maintains the National Leper Home in Carville, La., and marine hospitals; disseminates health information; and provides medical service in Federal Prisons.

Under the technical supervision of the Service, the Works Progress Administration is performing vital tasks to promote health and sanitation throughout the country. WPA has proved valuable on five fronts: Community sanitation; malaria control drainage; scaling of abandoned coal mines; general health inventory in 19 States; and investigation of plumbing in the public buildings of New York, Detroit and other large cities.

The community sanitation program, operating in about 1,300 counties and employing nearly 20,000 persons, has made definite strides toward elimination of conditions that favor the spread of typhoid fever and dysentery. More than 1,000,000 unsanitary outdoor toilets, which menaced the health of persons living in small communities and in suburban areas, have been replaced with sanitary latrines. In every instance materials for construction have been furnished from

sources other than the Federal Government.

Fighting malaria, WPA on November 1, had drained a water surface of nearly 9,000,000 square feet, thus contributing to the protection of 1,000,000 persons throughout the southern States. This important work employs in excess of 20,000 workers and operates in 306 counties.

Perhaps the most interesting of WPA's health projects is the job of sealing abandoned coal mines to prevent the formation of destructive acid solutions, which otherwise would find their way into public water supplies.

A major part of the battle against disease rests in a tireless study, survey and research campaign. In addition to the careful investigation of plumbing conditions, the WPA is currently conducting an intensive health survey in Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

With a total accumulated allocation of \$3,384,750 the work is

being accomplished with the help of needy white collar and professional workers drawn partly from relief rolls and partly from other groups.

The general health inventory is divided into the following four parts:

**Chronic disease survey:** A study of the incidence of chronic diseases and physical handicaps in the general population, the duration of disability, medical services received, and finally the relation of these to occupation, employment status, income, housing and other environmental factors.

**Communicable disease survey:** A study of the incidence of such diseases, communicable disease and immunization history, and the proportion of cases reported to State health departments among persons under 25 years.

**Occupational morbidity and mortality survey:** A study of amount of lost time due to illness among industrial workers, and of the relation of illness to occupation and the hazards of occupational environment.

**Health facilities survey:** A cen-

sus of public health facilities in terms of expenditure, personnel and service rendered.

The chronic disease and the communicable disease surveys are being made by a house-to-house canvass with the date checked by a mailed questionnaire to all physicians and hospitals caring for the individuals reporting sickness. On the other hand, the occupational morbidity and mortality study data are transcribed from records of sick benefit associations.

The supervisory staff consists of non-relief workers with training in general public health or social science, while relief workers include nearly every field of the white collar class.

Reports will take the form of multigraphed preliminary releases, printed public health reports and other bulletins of the U. S. Public Health Service. These reports will be sent to State and local health officers, medical societies, health and hygiene departments of all universities and, upon request, to individuals interested in epidemiology and the social and economic aspects of medical care.



*Headquarters of the U. S. Public Health Service in Washington*



# WPA Covers the Waterfront



*Pleasure craft in yacht basin,  
Washington Channel*

**E**XTENSIVE beautification along the Potomac River is under way in the Nation's Capital with Works Progress Administration aid. The United States Engineer Office is drafting specifications for an eight-year improvement program of the historic waterfront.

The program is highly varied, including the erection of seawalls, new buildings, piers, road construction, improvement of yacht basins, and general landscaping.

Most citizens will be surprised to learn that the Capital has 30 miles of waterfront. Even Washingtonians are accustomed to regard the waterfront as a two-mile stretch extending along Water Street from the Tidal Basin flood gate to the Army War College.

Few realize the long expanse of Potomac River which runs past the Palisades through Georgetown Channel to sweep downstream. They also are likely to forget the Anacostia River, which splits the eastern section of Washington.

WPA projects rapidly nearing completion along the Potomac include airport improvement at Bolling Field, with erection of administrative buildings and living quarters for the staff; a sewer

system regarded as one of the largest in the world; a golf course for colored residents; a seawall at First and O Streets; a beautiful boulevard drive extending into Georgetown, and other work designed to beautify the waterfront.

Decided advantages accrue to the health of the city through at least two of the projects. The new sewer system will prove more than adequate to care for the Capital's needs, while another project—the clearing and grading of a 55-acre tract formerly used as a dump—will eliminate the menace to health presented by mosquitoes and other insects. Future use of this tract has not yet been determined, but has been considered as a site for a municipal stadium.

Under the ambitious program of the U. S. Engineer Office the frontage along Water Street will be vastly improved and beautified. Since there is twice as much activity along this section as in all the rest combined, it is deemed logical that the bulk of the “face-lifting” be centered there.

The Engineer Office is particularly interested in the area extending from the Tidal Basin flood gate to the foot of P Street, a

distance of slightly more than a mile.

The plans proposed call for construction of four yachting units for protection and anchorage of small craft; a more modern pier for Norfolk-Washington ship traffic; a steamboat pier for miscellaneous service; a pier to be used exclusively by the District of Columbia Police and Fire Departments; a pier for excursion and short-trip craft, and general reinforcement of the seawall.

It is estimated that the undertaking will cost \$1,650,000, of which the District Government will be apportioned \$389,000. Fifteen thousand dollars are now being utilized for drafting of plans and specifications, with a view to actual start of operations next spring.

Modern buildings will be constructed along artistic architectural lines on the various piers. Unsightly structures and piers will be demolished. Water Street will be graded and landscaped.

The four yachting units will care for 286 craft, with all the berths located in the upper half of the channel. The largest unit will accommodate 90 boats, while the smallest will have room for 50.

Upon completion of these projects, further proposals will be made for construction of a bridge across the channel connecting Water Street with East Potomac Park driveway; to widen Water Street from 110 to 160 feet; to build a 60-foot wide service street for general trucking, and for construction of a scenic boulevard near the water line.

Seventeen and a half miles of Washington's waterfront belong to the Federal Government, while 12½ miles are privately owned. Of the Government's holdings, 14 miles are reserved for parks and Federal use; two miles are being improved and are either under lease or open to the public. One and a half miles, although undeveloped, are available for commercial use.

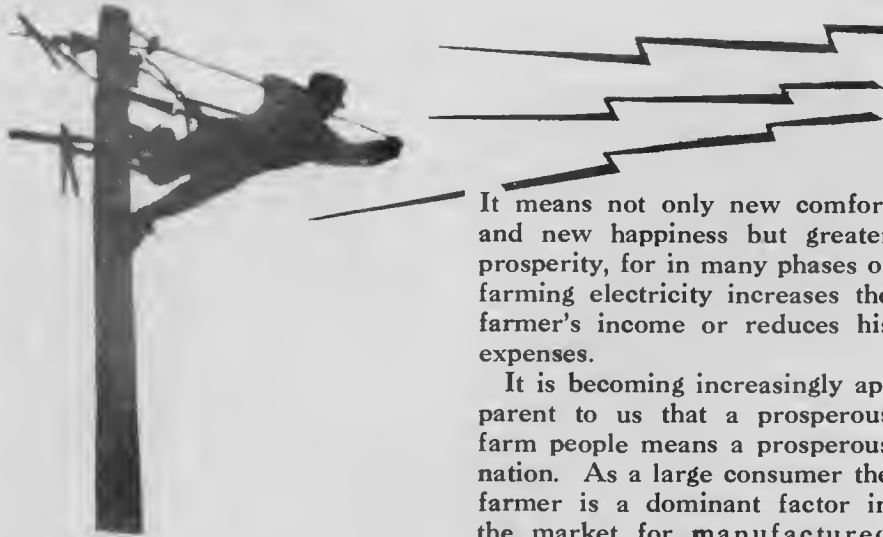
Ten miles of the privately-owned frontage still remain in the natural stage, affording Capital residents a view of virgin territory within a few minutes' boat ride or auto drive from their homes.



*Seawall built by WPA along the Potomac*



*The fishing fleet moored snugly in the shadow of the Monument*



# Electrified

crews in all parts of the country are being put to work—and they will continue to work during the next few years, erecting poles, stringing wires, and installing equipment and wiring. The increased industrial activity means greatly increased employment in both the skilled and the unskilled trades.

Into every mile of rural line go such manufactured goods as wire, transformers, insulators, lumber and hardware material—the production of which gives impetus to industry and wages to labor. In fact, our survey shows that, after direct wages are paid, the remaining 71 cents in every dollar used in rural line construction are spent as follows: lumber, 17c; transformers, 23c; meters, 3c; overhead and miscellaneous, 7c.

REA has the practical and immediate problem of encouraging construction and operation of the greatest possible number of self-liquidating electric power line extensions into unserved rural areas. REA finances this construction. In the past, absence of adequate facilities for financing has handicapped much private line building, and prevented almost all public, cooperative or non-profit construction. But this barrier is removed by REA's policy of long-term, low-interest loans to local groups that will extend lines into districts now without service.

Farmers, long impatient for electricity, have grasped this opportunity to get it for themselves, and hundreds of farm homes are now served with central station electric power for the first time over REA lines. Funds have been allocated and loans made for almost 25,000 miles of lines to serve more than 87,000 farms.

More than that, at this writing many millions of dollars in applications from all over the country are being examined by the REA staff. Some of these requests may not be granted; others may have to be combined or refashioned before they can be approved. But

It means not only new comfort and new happiness but greater prosperity, for in many phases of farming electricity increases the farmer's income or reduces his expenses.

It is becoming increasingly apparent to us that a prosperous farm people means a prosperous nation. As a large consumer the farmer is a dominant factor in the market for manufactured goods. The speed of the wheels of industry is increased or decreased in proportion to farm prosperity.

It is the purpose of REA to take electricity to the farm; to have it used there in quantities sufficient to lighten materially farm labor; and to enable the farm family to have the physical comforts and cultural advantages which electric power alone can bring.

However, by no means does this comprise the sole benefit of a rural electrification program to the nation. It is increasing industrial activity. It creates new and profitable business for the lumber, copper and other basic industries. It opens new markets for local contractors and dealers, and for manufacturers of electric ranges, water heaters, refrigerators, radios, feed grinders, pumps, sanitary fixtures, and other equipment. It is conservatively estimated that for every dollar spent on power line extensions, three will be spent for wiring and appliances.

A recent survey shows that about 29 cents of every dollar spent for rural line construction goes to labor in the form of direct wages. This means that if electric service can be brought to a million farms during the next ten years, well over \$100,000,000—or more than \$10,000,000 a year—should be released to labor in the form of wages—and this from the REA program alone. In addition, private rural electrification

By

Morris L. Cooke

*Rural Electrification  
Administrator*

**A**UTHORITIES conservatively estimate that labor and industry in the United States will share well over a billion and a half dollars in wages and income during the next decade as a result of recent legislation creating a permanent Rural Electrification Administration.

These two groups will benefit directly from the Federal program of financing rural electrification in all stages, for which ultimately \$410,000,000 may be lent by REA.

It is largely due to lack of electric power that adequate lighting, hot and cold running water, and modern sanitation are unknown on eight out of nine farms in the United States. Three-fourths of American farm wives still have to carry water and more than half must do the laundry out of doors regardless of weather.

Such are the conditions that led President Roosevelt and the Congress to establish the Rural Electrification Administration. Set up first as a temporary agency under the Relief Act of 1935, REA was made permanent this year and a 10-year program provided.

Electricity at a price the farmer can afford signals a new day for the farm people of the nation.

# Agriculture

many will go through as they are; and new applications are coming in every day.

For lending purposes in this fiscal year REA will have available \$50,000,000, one-half of which has been allotted to the various States in proportion to the number of farms not now receiving electric services. The remaining \$25,000,000 may be allotted at the discretion of the Administrator in the States where it will prove most effective, provided that not more than 10 per cent, or \$2,500,000, goes to any one State.

Fortunately, REA is not alone in working toward electrified farms in the United States. Not to be outdone, the private power industry is keenly alive to the possibilities of the rural market. Extensive rural line construction is being undertaken, financed privately. In 1935, for example, the industry's figures show that rural line construction was 175 per cent more than in 1934.

This year there is a still greater increase. During the first *six* months of 1936, more farms were connected to electric lines than in any *twelve*-month period since 1929, according to reports just made public. The great volume

of rural line construction this year is putting a strain on manufacturers, and some creosoting plants are reported unable to keep up with their orders for treating wood poles.

In New York the Public Service Commission reports a fivefold increase over the previous year in new rural line construction. From January to June, 1936, inclusive, 1,425 miles of rural electric lines have been built to serve 6,104 new customers.

Illinois, too, reports excellent progress. The volume of rural line construction which has been authorized during the first seven months of 1936, towers above the activity for 1935. Nineteen hundred and fifty-one miles of rural line construction had been authorized by August 1 this year, as compared with 118 miles in all of 1935 and a mere two miles the year before.

The Georgia Power Company alone expects to construct 1,026 miles of rural lines during 1936. The program for three years, 1936, 1937 and 1938, calls for the construction of 3,000 miles to serve 15,000 customers at a cost of about \$4,000,000.



Other States are reporting rapid progress.

Already the policies of REA have been effective in many ways in reducing the cost of electric service.

For example, REA is investigating new techniques and construction standards especially adapted to rural use. At the time of its establishment, information



*Electricity soon will lighten labors of Farmer Jones*



on this subject was woefully limited. Previously, many utility companies had estimated rural lines to cost \$1,500 to \$2,000 or more per mile. The REA was convinced that this price was entirely out of line with what good, safe and durable construction should cost. Evidence has proved this contention right, and REA is financing projects with construction costs running between \$850 and \$1,100 per mile.

Additional large savings are made in that mass construction, planned and executed for large areas instead of piecemeal, is used for the first time. Every economy worked into construction, without lessening the sturdiness or effective operation of the lines, make it possible to serve many more farms. Lower construction costs also permit lower rates.

Sponsors of REA-financed proj-

ects are finding in many cases that their estimates were too high and they actually do not need to draw the full amount allotted.

Private utility construction as well as that of non-profit organizations, has been completed at low costs. The Suburban Electric Corporation of Dunlop, Illinois, borrowed \$81,500 from REA to build 98 miles of rural lines, an average of \$832 per mile. A larger private utility project is that of the Florida Power Corporation, building 185 miles of line with a loan of \$164,500, an average of \$890 per mile.

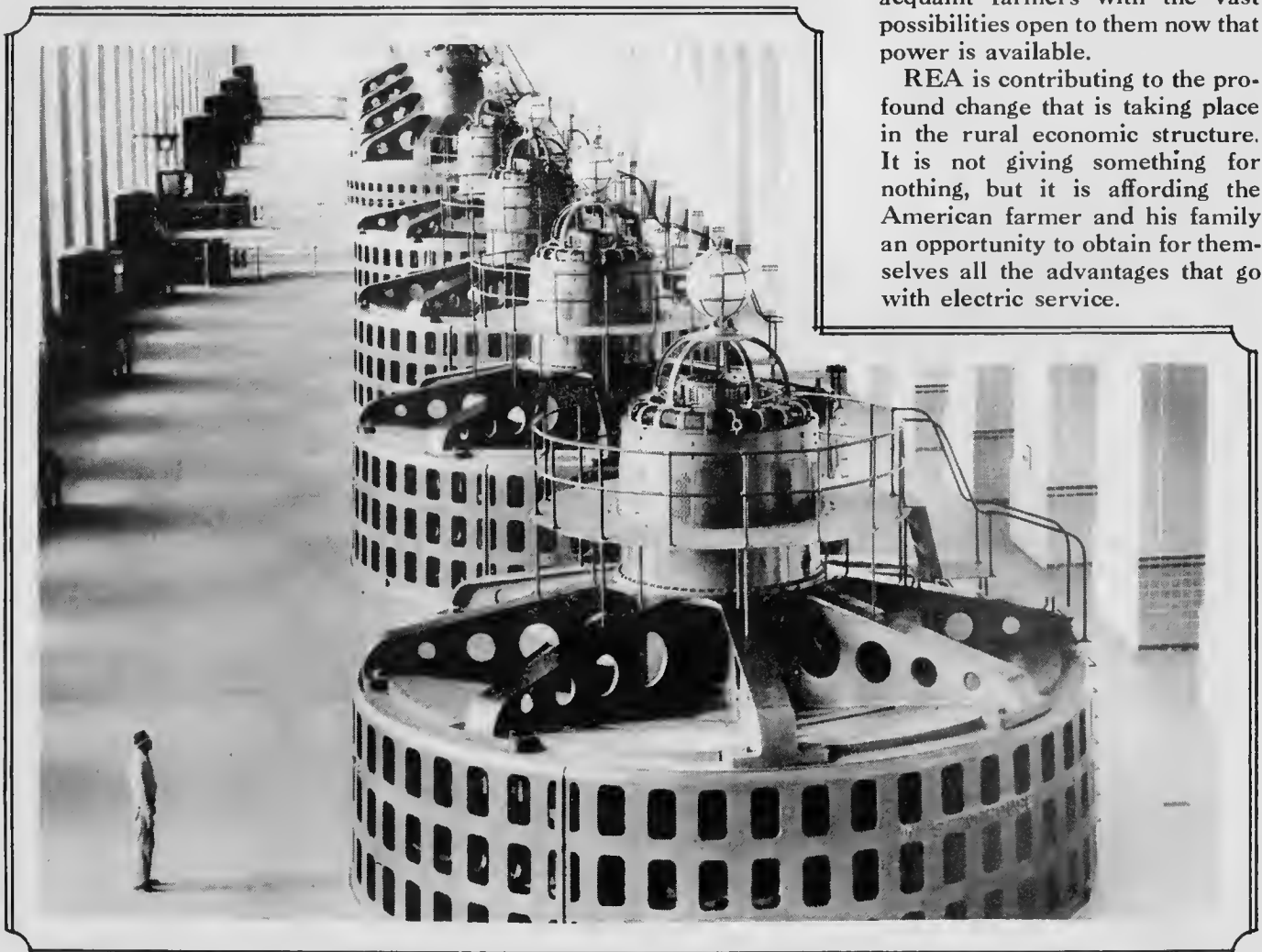
The REA program has also resulted in more liberal line extension policies on the part of private companies.

REA finances wiring of farm homes and buildings. A factor which has handicapped rural residents who wanted electricity has

been the expense of wiring their premises. REA encourages abundant use of power by making it possible for farmers to wire their farms properly in the beginning. Mass economies are available here, too, because of large-scale wiring programs financed by REA on favorable terms. Through other Federal organizations, the Electric Home and Farm Authority and the Federal Housing Administration, appliances and any necessary rebuilding of the home and other buildings may be financed. If electric power is to benefit agriculture fully, current must be sufficiently cheap to be used in large quantities.

REA was established in the belief that electricity can effect the same transformation on the farm that it has in industry. Accordingly, REA is inaugurating an extensive educational campaign to acquaint farmers with the vast possibilities open to them now that power is available.

REA is contributing to the profound change that is taking place in the rural economic structure. It is not giving something for nothing, but it is affording the American farmer and his family an opportunity to obtain for themselves all the advantages that go with electric service.



—and the electricity comes out here



# SAFE At Work

**E**VER stressing the safety factor, the District of Columbia Works Progress Administration points with justifiable pride to a remarkably low accident record since inauguration of the program on August 1, 1935.

Only 347 WPA workers in the District have lost time from their jobs as a result of injuries during 10,781,922 man-hours on more than 100 projects. And in that time there have been only two deaths—despite the dangerous nature of some of the work.

Total injuries reached only 1,650, a tribute to the rigid safety measures insisted upon by all WPA project supervisors.

The District WPA has followed the example of the Federal WPA in going to great lengths to protect the lives and limbs of its workers. First aid kits are standard equipment on every WPA project. The size of these kits vary according to the job and are kept by the foremen ready for immediate use in emergencies.

There are four standard kits, consisting of 24, 16, 10 and six units of bandages and first-aid medicines. The kits are constantly replenished from medical supplies at a general storehouse. Contents of the kits include assorted bandages, iodine, ammonia and ointments for burns and bites.

On the sewing room project, which employs more than 2,000 women, first aid clinics are maintained on two shifts and with two trained nurses on duty at all times. These clinics treat the injured and sick and watch over the general health of the women. They are equipped to treat such ailments as colds, adenitis, neuralgia, tonsillitis, sinus trouble and toothache. Workers afflicted with more serious illnesses are sent to public health clinics for treatment.

A long range preventive pro-



*Just to prevent infection*

gram is being carried out among field workers, proceeding along the lines of instruction to foremen and timekeepers, dissemination of bulletins to workers and the posting of safety information in conspicuous places on projects. Warning signs are maintained at danger points.

The District WPA's safety record is all the more striking in view of the hazardous nature of work on many projects. Sewer work is classed as especially dangerous, with the ever-present menace of cave-ins. Many sewer excavations in the District have been to a depth of between 30 and 40 feet, but during the entire program not one accident has occurred from improper shoring.

On road construction, where concrete debris is broken by hand mauls, goggles are supplied and workers are compelled to wear them. As a result not one serious eye injury has been reported, although many goggles have been broken by flying rocks.

Only one lost time accident was recorded in the truck fleet, emphasizing importance of the rigid

monthly inspection of all rolling stock. The hundreds of trucks and other motor vehicles used on the projects are tested for adequacy of hoisting apparatus, tires, motors, lights, horns and brakes. Part of this inspection is carried out through cooperation with the traffic division of the Metropolitan Police Department.

In this connection WPA officials expressed satisfaction in having available the safety facilities of the Government bureaus.

On various projects throughout the District where the water was unfit for consumption by workers, the safety division erected warning signs.

The safety division cooperated with the D. C. health department in insuring inspection of all the handlers of food served to the children in the school lunch program.

Despite the low accident and death rate, however, there has not been and will not be any inclination on the part of WPA supervisors to relax in their drive for "safety first, last and all the time."

# MOTHERING MILLIONS



At that time there was more and more concern about the depression's effects on the health, nutrition and medical care of children in families of the unemployed. Reports of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in the fall of 1933 indicated that nearly 12,500,000 persons were receiving relief from public funds, and that about 42 per cent of them were under 16 years of age. This figure was considered particularly significant, since, according to the 1930 census, children in that year made up only 31 per cent of the total population. A later estimate placed the number of children in relief families at 8,000,000.

There consequently arose a tremendous increase in the need for medical care and health supervision of mothers and children in families unable to pay for such services. But public appropriations for all health activities were being reduced, and it became increasingly difficult for privately supported health agencies to continue their full volume of work.

Anxiety concerning ways and means of preventing this period in our history from leaving permanent marks on the future generation grew alarmingly. In October, 1933, the Secretary of Labor called a national conference in Washington to consider the health needs of children and plan a program of child health recovery.

**T**HE dark days of the winter of 1933-34, the fifth of the depression, might well have found an historian in Harriett Prescott

Spofford, who is credited with penning that most harrowing of lines—"The dark phantom of the hungry poor."



*... while mother's away*

It immediately became apparent that the two principal obstacles to the development of State-wide programs was the lack of full-time medical and nursing personnel, and the difficulty of arranging for correction of physical defects among children.

With the inauguration of the Civil Works Administration in the fall of 1933, however, and the possibility of employing nurses for child health work under that program, great impetus was given to the entire child health recovery movement.

The Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor agreed to act as consultant in the organization of special State-wide child health nursing projects. In the next few months approximately 2,000 nurses, including about 200 qualified public health nurses as supervisors, were employed in various phases of child health work.

Since the majority of these nurses had had no previous experience in public health work, their activities were confined to some simple aspect of child care—one for which definite and detailed instructions could be given in group conferences and individual conferences.

Reports of those early nursing projects are replete with many human interest stories and numerous picturesque incidents—stories of nurses in Maine setting out in the cold winter mornings on snowshoes to discover needy mothers and children in remote areas which could be reached only on foot; stories of school lunch and nutrition programs in big cities, and inspection of school children to find physical defects in need of correction.

Between July, 1935, and July, 1936, 37 States had nursing projects in operation by the Works Progress Administration, which had taken over the programs originally administered by the CWA and FERA. In general these programs called for one or more phases of maternity and child health work, including health work with school children, such as nursing, immunization from disease, examinations and correc-

tion of physical defects, arranging for tuberculin tests, and allied activities.

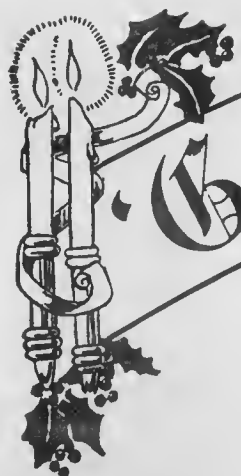
There is no yardstick by which the result of these programs may be evaluated, for a mere summary of the number of mothers and children reached by some form of health activity does not tell the whole story. It is known that there have been thousands of immunizations against diphtheria. Many prospective mothers have received prenatal care who otherwise would have had none. Nursing care has been made available in countless needy homes. Hungry children have been fed. A valuable service has been made available but for which the burden of the depression would have borne much more heavily upon

the mothers and children of families of the unemployed.

But aside from these tangible results, there are intangible benefits which cannot be measured in specific terms. It may be said that the emergency nursing programs have reached beyond the immediate needs of the present and have helped to lay the foundation for constructive programs of far-reaching future value to the country as a whole.

*Smilin' through*





Good Will To



# Toward Men



...and the children are not forgotten.  
WPA is cooperating with the local  
agencies which are helping prevent  
the tragedy of the empty stocking.





# Friends Indeed

By  
*Cary T. Grayson*

*Chairman, American Red Cross*

OURS is a calm land and singularly blessed, with fertile fields stretching across the continent. North America is a new land, geologically speaking, yet we have no bursting volcanoes, and few regions where prolonged drought or incessant rains hinder normal routines of our people. America indeed is a very fortunate land.

We have, however, over periods of years, experienced reversals of nature's moods. We have had severe earthquakes, droughts and fires that have devastated whole towns and cities. Recently we have experienced, during the spring of 1936, a period of serious floods throughout the eastern section of our country.

At that time disaster knitted our country into one big family, intent, above all else, on helping those whose worldly possessions were swept seaward on the crest of many swollen streams. Uncontrollable streams of water spread out over prosperous communities and submerged many industrial areas, while millions of persons witnessed this devastation and destruction with feelings only of helplessness. There was nothing we could do, in the face of such terrific strength, to halt the onslaughts of the flood in scores of rivers and streams.

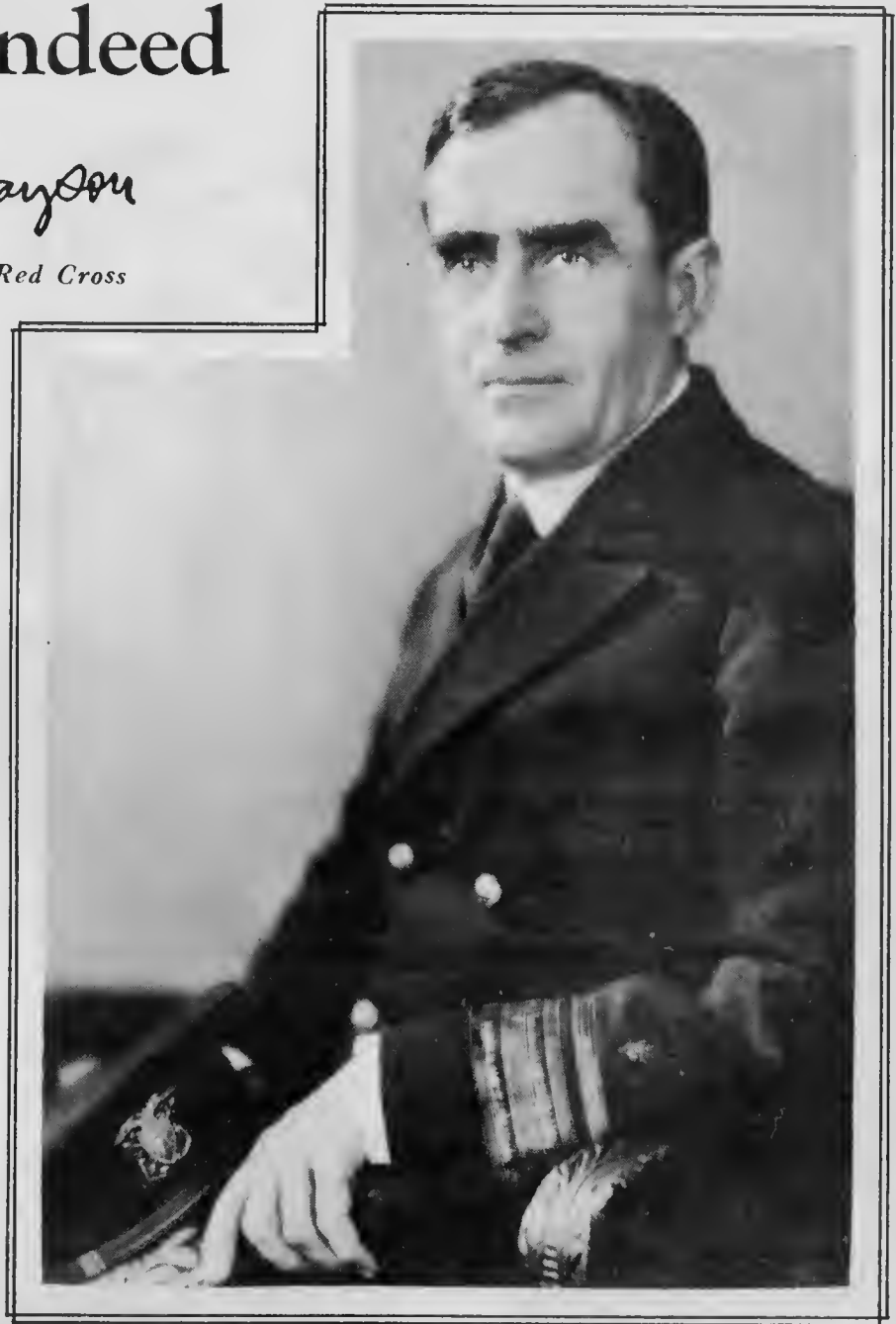
The aftermath of these floods is too well known to everyone. Thousands of families found themselves homeless. Hundreds of thousands of persons saw their personal possessions ruined and rendered unfit for further use; hundreds of farms emerged from the flood covered with untillable silt, debris and sand. Herds of farm animals were drowned, poultry washed away and farm crops ruined. The nation, from

coast to coast, was appalled as it had seldom been before.

There followed, in the wake of these floods, a chapter in neighborly cooperation between victims and the general American public that will live long in the annals of this country. The Works Progress Administration, along with the American Red Cross and scores of other Federal and private agencies, furnished a perfect example of the necessity for complete and unstinted cooperation in rehabilitating families, towns

and cities crushed by the catastrophe.

During those first emergency hours, when the Red Cross was called upon to feed, clothe or shelter 77,000 families in 21 States, the cooperation extended by the Works Progress Administration and other Federal agencies was a vital contribution to the work as a whole. The clothing and food gathered by the WPA workers cut Red Cross costs to a very appreciable degree, while manpower furnished by WPA offices



*REAR ADMIRAL CARY T. GRAYSON*

aided us immeasurably in speeding up our work. Surely, here as never before, we had outstanding examples of cooperation and willing assistance.

Imagine the enormous amount of food required to feed the entire population of Washington, D. C.—more than half a million persons. Picture the trains of food required to feed that city for one week, for two weeks, for a month. Milk for children, water, meats, breads and vegetables.

If it were possible to visualize this mountain of foodstuffs it would also be possible to visualize the vast amount of food materials the Red Cross found necessary to feed 77,000 families—almost half a million persons—ultimately depending on this organization for the necessities of life following the floods. Few relief operations in the history of the world have equaled this in sheer magnitude. Yet the Red Cross met this need during the spring floods fully and completely, a great task made possible through the generous cooperation of the Works Progress Administration, other Government agencies and local assistance from groups and individuals.

President Roosevelt and WPA Administrator Harry L. Hopkins pointed out the responsibilities of the Red Cross and Governmental agencies at that time:

The Red Cross was to assume responsibility for family and individual needs of flood victims, furnishing medical aid, feeding, sheltering and clothing them during the emergency, and was to make plans for the rehabilitation of those families needing assistance. Governmental agencies were to assist local and State gov-

ernments in re-establishing public conveniences, such as highways, bridges, public buildings and the clearing away of debris left in the wake of the floods.

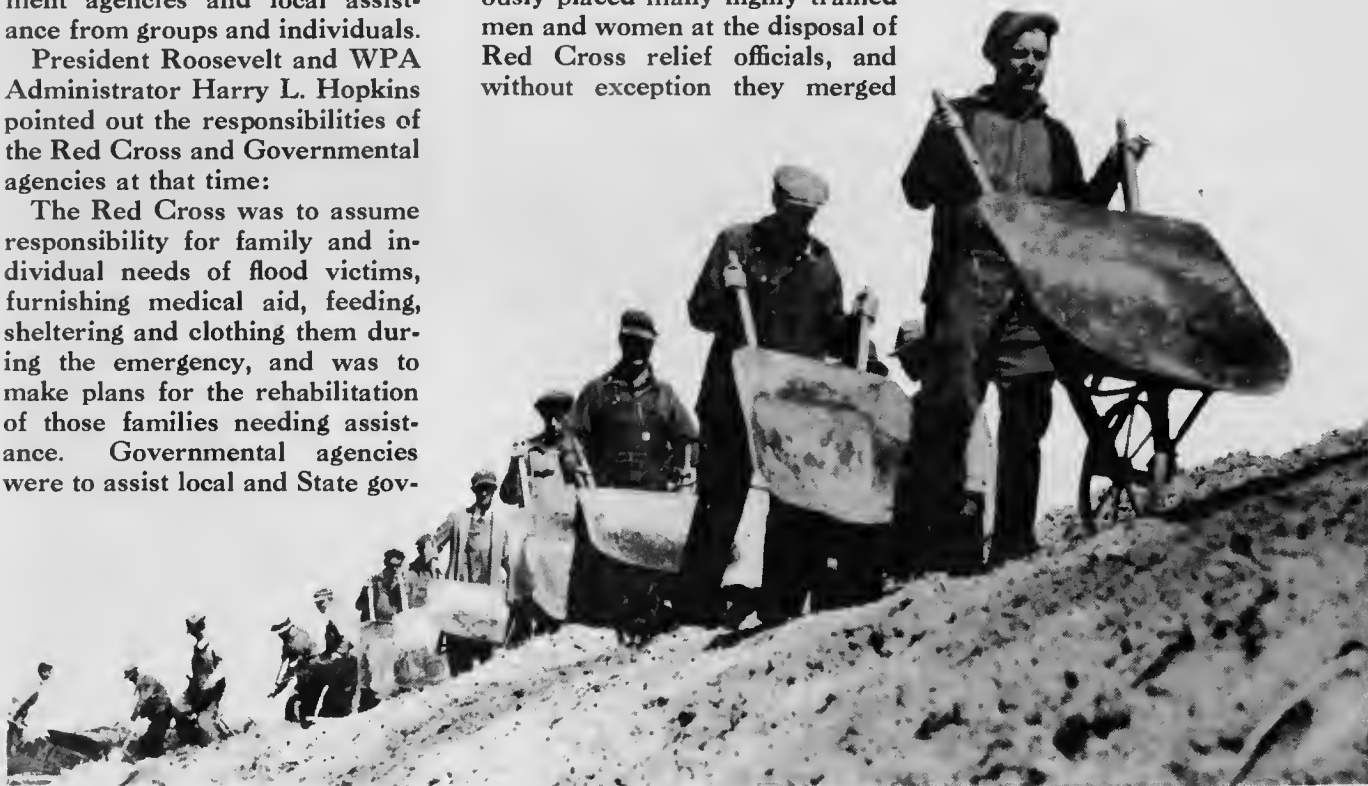
In this way the duties of the various organizations were clearly defined, and this resulted in a fine dove-tailing of efforts that made for the greatest efficiency and speed. There was no lack of cooperation on any front.

The Red Cross is the oldest organization of its kind in this country. For 55 years the Red Cross has been assisting victims of disasters, and during that time has gradually acquired a staff and a fund of experience that in no small measure contributes to the general efficiency with which it operates. Army engineers, Works Progress Administration officials and the Red Cross work hand in hand. The Coast Guard, the Navy and private or civic groups all turn toward one common goal—the relief of those who need assistance. Last spring, for instance, when Red Cross personnel was so strained, the Works Progress Administration generously placed many highly trained men and women at the disposal of Red Cross relief officials, and without exception they merged

into the ranks of regular disaster relief personnel with a smoothness and efficiency that was, to say the least, remarkable.

There is no way of estimating the total losses resulting from the floods of the year past, but the amount obviously would be an appalling sum. The Red Cross is charged by Congress with the responsibility for relieving victims of such catastrophes, and will continue to do so, but at the same time it is anxious, as all other organizations and agencies involved are, to see preventive measures taken against the constant re-occurrence of such devastating happenings.

The Works Progress Administration and other governmental agencies may be assured that the experiences and the records of the Red Cross are at the complete disposal of those concerned with working out plans for the prevention of such awful catastrophes. We are anxious to cooperate in any way possible in bringing about flood control and the elimination of flood damage.



*Dike-builders, like ole man river, just keep rollin' along*

# 'She Looketh Well to Her Household' . . .

ANSWERING the cry of acute human need, WPA Housekeeping Aides go into homes where illness, death, infirmity, blindness or some other misfortune makes it impossible for the housewife to carry on without help. These aides do the laundry, scrub the floors, straighten the house, care for the children, wait on the sick—do everything possible to set in motion the routine tasks which serve to make a house a home.

Over the country such projects give employment to 5,400 needy women heads of families, practical homemakers who have no other skills or professions through which to earn a living. They are sent out by the WPA at the request of agencies which sponsor the projects, to homes where resources are too low to employ help for such emergencies.

The aides get their training and instructions from WPA supervisors, most of whom are trained home economists. These supervisors conduct regular classes to demonstrate proper methods of cooking, cleaning and other housework. They also advise the aides

about individual cases and give them intensive instruction in dietetics, menu planning and household budgeting. The aides, in turn, teach the rudiments of efficient household management to members of the family they serve. Often they instruct the father or the children how to carry on while the mother is ill or incapacitated. Again they show the mother herself how to manage the household even though handicapped.

In most cases the help of the housekeeping aide is purely an emergency service. The purpose of the aide is to organize the household so that it will function alone as soon as possible. Through her own work she also shows the family how to bring order from chaos and run a house smoothly in spite of adversities.

A visiting housekeeper must possess tolerance, tact, patience and diplomacy, as well as the experience and training which fit her for efficient housework under trying conditions. She is bound by an unwritten code not to bear tales or discuss with outsiders the circumstances of the homes in which she works.

Her duties fall under the headings of cleaning the home, preparation of meals, laundering, making and remodeling garments and household articles, caring for children, simple home care of the sick and advice on marketing, budgeting, nutrition and home management.

Under no circumstances is she allowed to prescribe medicine or treatment or to give advice on domestic relations. Such personal family matters as come to her attention must be referred to her project supervisor who will, in turn, refer them to the social agency handling the case.

The most common types of cases are four: That group wherein the mother or father is employed and general instruction in housekeeping and care of children is necessary; illness cases, both chronic and acute, which require additional time and effort; aged persons, many of whom are bed-ridden and wholly unable to fend for themselves; and the blind or handicapped.

Five hours is the daily average spent in a home, according to an Ohio record. It is usually 10 weeks before a case is considered closed. In chronic cases, where persons are afflicted with tuberculosis, arthritis, cancer or diabetes, the service is necessarily extended over longer periods.

Behind each case is a story of human suffering or tragedy made easier to bear through timely, sympathetic help. A few of these stories will give some idea of how much good this particular type of WPA project is accomplishing throughout the country.

In an Ohio home the mother had an active case of tuberculosis. The doctor advised that a 90-day rest period would probably keep her from becoming an institutional case. Rather than break up the home by sending the mother to a hospital and the children to a children's home, the District Nurse Association asked that a housekeeping aide be sent to the



*Another soil removal project*



*A fertile field for household aides*

home every day. The WPA worker assigned to the case did the buying, planned and prepared the meals, did the washing and ironing, kept the house clean and cared for the children while the mother was in bed. Thus was the family kept together until the mother was able to resume her work.

In Lincoln, Nebr., a home was in a deplorable state because the mother was blind and could not keep up her housework. A WPA housekeeping aide was sent out. She worked with the woman and helped her organize her kitchen so that each article she needed for simple cooking was in a certain place and labeled in such a way that it could be identified by touch. She also taught the children how to help their mother and thus made it possible for the household to function even though the mother could not see.

During last spring's flood emergencies, the WPA housekeeping aides in Pennsylvania and other stricken States lost no time in coming to the aid of flood victims. They traveled with trucks loaded with clothing from the WPA sewing centers, helped the Red Cross in the distribution of commodities, cleaned up many flooded homes, assisted in bedside nursing, established soup kitchens, and performed other general work of rehabilitation.

In Manhattan and Brooklyn alone, 16,644 needy families were served by this project between December 1, 1935, and March 1, 1936. In Tennessee last year, 6,670 needy homes were aided by WPA housekeeping aides.

Housekeeping aide projects operate in 25 States and New York City.

It is evident that besides their emergency help the housekeeping

aides are doing constructive work in raising living standards wherever such projects operate. Many homes have been thoroughly cleaned for the first time in years; living conditions have been made more sanitary; housewives have been taught better methods and many families formerly "down and out" have been rehabilitated. Cleanliness, order and sympathetic help have restored pride and self-respect. Individuals and families move forward with a new hope and a new lease on life as a result of the visits of these WPA "good Samaritans."

Many of the States report excellent results in rehabilitation of the workers themselves. Due to the training and practical experience they receive on the projects and the satisfactory results they obtain, many have found paid employment in private homes.

# First Americans

*John Collier*  
Commissioner  
of Indian Affairs

NEVER disturbed or greatly influenced by the trend of modern times, the American Indians nevertheless have experienced considerable difficulty in the recent disastrous years of drought and depression.

The Indians always have been and perhaps for many years will remain very much a people apart and different from other races of the world. For this reason their affairs have been more difficult to handle than would be the affairs of a similar number of white citizens in any given section of the country.

The foundation of Indian life rests in a quiet earth. Indian life is not tense; it is not haunted with urgencies and does not fully accept the view that programs, unless immediately achieved, will result in failure.

Generally speaking, Indian life is a happy one. Even the most poverty-stricken and seemingly futureless Indians are happy. They live today very much as they have for 1,000 years. They do not expect much; often nothing at all.

Still, the United States Government endeavors to secure for the Red People all the material benefits accruing to other Americans, whether the Indians expect such benefits or not. Obviously, the Indian is entitled to the same social and economic advantages enjoyed by the rest of us. The Government, through its Indian Service, tries to see to it that our "First Americans" are given a full share in the Federal public assistance programs.

The suffering entailed by the drought and depression, however, virtually doubled the work of the



Indian Service. Through relief appropriations the Indians and their property have been greatly benefited. During the last three years important help has been given through Emergency Conservation Work, the original Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Resettlement Administration and the Works Progress Administration.

All have contributed relief in one form or another and through this relief many permanent values have been instituted.

The Works Progress Administration, particularly, has been instrumental in helping Indian women and children. Cooking, sewing and other classes of home economics have been going on

throughout the Indian country for months, teaching the women and children to be of more and better service to their families, thereby lightening the burdens of the home.

The office of Indian Affairs is greatly indebted for the diversified aid given by the WPA.

Few people realize the size of the Office of Indian Affairs or the magnitude of the job which is entrusted to it. The Service is concerned directly or indirectly with the welfare, social and economic, of approximately 385,000 people. There are today in the United States and Alaska nearly 360,000 Indians. The regular administrative force of the Service is, roughly, 6,500 employees. These with their families constitute a





tistics and miscellaneous Indian affairs.

The Office, as a result of the revolutionary changes of the last three years, finds itself on the threshold of a wider and better opportunity to be of service to the Indian.

Through the Indian reorganization of 1934, the Oklahoma bill of 1936 and the Alaskan amendment, we are in a position more than ever before to help the Indian help himself to economic and social freedom. Already 183 tribes, with a population of 134,000, have voted to accept terms of the reorganization act. Constitutions and charters are in process of being drawn up for acceptance and when once adopted cannot be revoked or changed by administrative action. Personal government of the tribes by the Secretary of the Interior and the Indian Commissioner is a thing of the past.

Through many administrations the Office of Indian Affairs monopolized the Indians. What serv-

population of between 20,000 and 25,000 persons.

But social and economic welfare is only one phase of the work of the Service. It means administering the details involving 51,400,000 acres of lands—an acreage larger than the total area of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Delaware. Through fiscal agents of the office \$28,000,000 of money belonging to individual Indians and tribes is handled.

Some idea of the scope of the administrative field covered by the Indian Office may be obtained by a glance through the following divisions into which it is divided: Alaska, land acquisition (with its section of land adjustments, records, oil and gas and claims), construction, emergency conservation, education, employees, extension, fiscal, forestry and grazing, health, employment, organization, rehabilitation, information, irrigation, law, library, mail and files, personnel, probate, roads, sta-



*Paleface blanket and modernized pueblo*



*Just a couple of kids.  
The one on the left is a Navajo.*

*Courtesy H. Armstrong Roberts*

ices it could not render them were not rendered at all.

The Johnson-O'Malley act enacted at the beginning of the present administration makes possible the varied use for Indians of the health, educational, agricultural and welfare service of the several States. One of the most progressive accomplishments to date, so far as the Office is concerned, has been the development of an extended cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, Public Health Service, Bureau of Animal Industry and the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution.

It would take many volumes to tell the whole story of the Indians and the work of the Indian Service, but this, of course, is impossible. I do, however, want to say in closing that had it not been for the sympathetic understanding of the serious problems confronting the Indians by President Roosevelt we never would have been able to make the progress that has been accomplished since March, 1933.



*Blackfeet tepees in the shadows of the Rockies, Glacier National Park.*

# Where Man Improved on Nature



*Flathead National Park, Montana*

**G**ROWING appreciation of America's natural beauties is evidenced in figures showing a 20 per cent increase during the last year in the number of visitors to National parks.

One-fourteenth of the country's population—or more than 9,000,000 persons—visited 134 national parks and monuments, in addition to countless millions who enjoyed the facilities offered by almost 4,000,000 acres of State parks.

Every recreational facility is afforded by parks of the nation, whether it be skiing in July; fishing, boating, skating, hiking, horseback riding, big game hunting (with a camera, however; not a gun), or the plain enjoyment of scenic wonders.

Today, thanks to the excellent system of highways being constructed—many of them with

WPA aid—these parks are more accessible. The motor tourist can start with Acadia National Park in Maine, go south to Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains, and there go along the Eastern seaboard to Florida, where there is the Everglades Park project. From there he can travel across the Gulf States to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, thence to Grand Canyon National Park, in Arizona; on into California, with its Sequoia, Yosemite, General Grant and Lassen Volcanic parks. From there he has a choice of Crater Park, in Oregon; Mount Rainier, in Washington; International Peace Park, in Montana; Yellowstone, or Teton in Wyoming; Rocky Mountain Park in Colorado, or an equal number of parks in other States.

The newest park, Shenandoah, attracted the largest number of

visitors this year, with 694,098. Great Smoky Mountains drew 602,000. Yosemite and Yellowstone each was visited by more than 400,000.

Cognizant of the necessity for preserving such beauties as these parks present, the Government introduced a new era of conservation with the establishment in 1933 of the Emergency Conservation Work Program in both State and National parks.

It is a program social as well as economic, aimed at protection, restoration and development of natural resources. This program also assists in the conservation and stability of human resources and in the enrichment of the life of the people.

For the first time the Federal Government, through the National Park Service, is actively cooperating with the States in a program of



In this day of speedy travel the overpowering beauties of National and State Parks and Forests throughout the United States are accessible to millions. At right, Merced River and Sentinel Rock, Yosemite National Park. Below, hikers preparing to scale Mt. Lyell in the same recreational area. On the opposite page are seen Cliff Lake, Madison National Forest, Montana, top, and Cabinet Gorge, Cabinet National Forest, Montana.

*Photos by Dept. of the Interior,  
National Park Service and  
U. S. Forest Service.*









park development for recreation. The new program holds worldwide attention because of its broad scope and the manner in which it is being carried out.

It was natural that the National Park Service, with its 20 years' experience, should have been selected to plan and supervise the development of State, county and municipal parks, in cooperation with local authorities.

In this new program, the Service was given, for the first time, a definite responsibility in the field of recreation in addition to the administration of national parks, national monuments and battlefields.

It was recognized that in the expansion of a national program of parks and recreation, emphasis

should be placed upon the social and cultural as well as the physical and economic values. The growing desires and needs of the people for self-expression in creative recreational activities were given more serious consideration.

Since a public recreation program with such broad objectives could not be carried out effectively by any single Government unit, it was evident that there must be joint planning on the part of the Federal Government, the States and their political subdivisions.

The first requisite was manpower, which was supplied by President Roosevelt in 1933, when he created the Civilian Conservation Corps, under Robert Fechner, director of emergency conservation work.

Immediately the program of State, county and municipal park development was under way as local authorities joined hands with the Federal Government in setting up projects which furnished work for the CCC.

As a result of this, facilities for

recreation have been developed in parks throughout the country a decade or more in advance of ordinary expectations.

Since the spring of 1933 eight States—Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi, New Mexico, Montana, Oklahoma and Colorado—have acquired their first park properties. Thirty-seven States have reported acquisitions in park areas, bringing the nation's total of State parks alone to 3,859,087 acres, an area larger Connecticut.

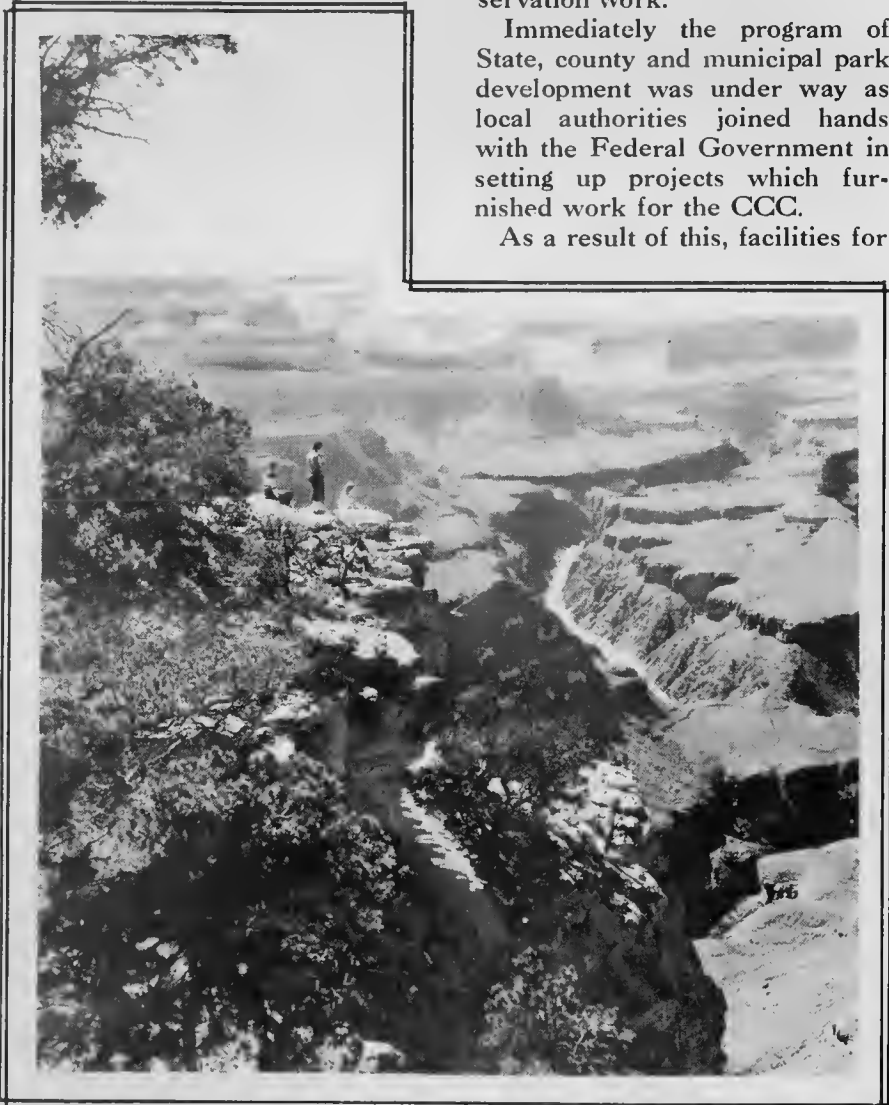
The President's conservation program also gave immediate attention to the grave problem of land use. For a number of years studies had been made showing the great destruction of natural resources, especially the impoverishment of land by improper use, with resulting erosion.

Early in 1934 the Land Program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration was organized with the advice and help of the Land Policy Section of the AAA, the Bureau of Agriculture Economics, the Office of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Biological Survey.

It was found that a great deal of land constituted an economic liability on local and State Governments. Some of this land had high adaptability for recreational use. The National Park Service was authorized to investigate such land and initiate projects designed to make better use of it. At the same time it provided adequate outdoor recreational facilities for people in large industrial centers lacking such facilities.

As a result of these studies, the NPS recommended the purchase and development of 60 such areas. Approximately \$11,000,000 was allotted, the land was acquired and 20,000 relief workers were gainfully employed in preliminary development programs.

On August 1, 1936, responsibility for these projects was transferred from the Resettlement Administration to the National Park Service.



*Grand Canyon of the Colorado*

# 'None Shall Starve'

UNTIL the autumn of 1933 nobody seriously questioned Ellis Parker Butler's statement that "Pigs is Pigs." But in that gloomy period we witnessed the evolution of the pig from an ordinary barnyard decoration to something of a national economic enigma. The pig had become both a burden and a luxury; a burden to the man who owned one, a luxury to several millions of Americans who couldn't buy even a portion of one.

Prior to the depression every farmer kept a few pigs for the dual purpose of providing winter meat for himself and family and as a quick, sure source of "cash money" with which to buy other necessities not produced on the farm.

But in 1933, pigs were practically worthless both as "home grown" table meat and as a money crop. In the first place, the farmers had far too many pigs; in the second place, the pigs were unfit for home slaughtering just then, because the farmers had not produced enough feed grains to fatten them. Finally, "the number of hogs already farrowed and fattening" being excessive, pigs were bringing about \$3.33 per hundredweight, which would not have paid for the corn with which to fatten them, if the farmers had had the corn.

Except for certain States, farmers had plenty of corn, in fact too much corn. They also had too many pigs. True, they could have continued to feed them surplus grain, but they took this position: "why throw good money after bad?" The grain was not worth very much, it is true. Still, it was worth as much, if not actually



*On way to hungry families*

more, than the pigs which, at \$3.33, were not worth hauling to market.

Then the Secretary of Agriculture declared an economic war against pork on the hoof. The Government bought 6,200,000 pigs and 220,000 sows, and ordered them slaughtered. Through arrangements with packers, the Government established 80 processing plants over the country, and began "volume production" of dry salt pork.

Slaughtering pens were kept busy. Men idle for months were recalled to their jobs in packing houses. Hog prices jumped to \$7.21 per hundredweight late in 1934. There the market steadied and has remained steady ever since.

But what about the millions of pounds of dry salt pork that had piled up in warehouses and refrigerators all over the country? As one business man put it, "what would happen when the government released all that meat?"

The Government had not intended to "release all that meat"; not, at any rate, in the manner implied by the worried business man. The Administration had looked far beyond the economic salvaging of the pig. It had its eyes on several millions of men, women and children who could not have bought pork even with pigs going at \$3.33 per hundredweight.

Instead of dumping the meat on the open market, the Administration diverted it from the regular channels of trade into millions of hungry mouths which long since had ceased to be "competitive consumers."

Thus the Government, by helping the farmer to receive a fair price for his pigs, had placed meat on the tables of families who could not afford to buy.

The Government continued to buy price-depressing surpluses from the farms, and distribute them among the needy. After dis-



*Surplus commodities supply employment, too*

continuing direct federal relief, the emergency agricultural agencies became more and more indispensable in the plan of farm surpluses, with the inevitable result that these evolved from out-and-out relief groups into a broader economic scope.

But the human side—the relief side—of the farm emergency plan is still very much in evidence. The relief phase of the surplus removal program sets it apart and above the old Federal Farm Board. Uncle Sam is now a buyer, not a seller, of agricultural over-production. He does not store up vast quantities of commodities for speculation. There is a place for every pound of prunes, every bale of cotton that the administration removes from the competitive market.

Allowed the equivalent of 30 per cent of the customs receipts on imported goods with which to purchase surplus American farm

products, the Secretary of Agriculture naturally does not have to compete with private industry by selling in the open market. The Government *gives away* these surpluses.

Foreign competitors pay for the tons upon tons of foodstuffs, the millions of yards of cloth that are distributed to America's unemployed needy, that these may be fed and clothed.

But how, you ask, since the Federal Government no longer engages in direct relief, are all these goods disposed of?

Enter the Works Progress Administration.

The WPA "inherited" the burden of distributing America's unsalable surpluses at the liquidation of the Federal direct relief agencies. But unlike its predecessor, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the WPA does not deal directly with individuals, except in extraordinary

cases. The WPA way can best be illustrated by taking a given commodity and tracing it from its origin to its ultimate goal, the home.

In October, 1935, the Secretary of Agriculture began a systematic program of removal of an accumulated wheat surplus. From the beginning of the program through September 19, 1936, the Administration purchased a total of 3,048,279 bushels. The purchases were made for the specific purpose of distributing to the poor. Typical of the manner in which the distributions were made was the handling of a portion of this surplus by the District of Columbia Works Progress Administration.

Before a single pound of wheat was shipped to Washington, the WPA was required to make an exact accounting in advance of the ultimate disposal of the grain. To make such an accounting, the WPA had only to communicate with the District of Columbia Board of Public Welfare, which in turn, communicated with the various local welfare agencies, and requested each to enumerate its relief load, together with the peculiar needs of each group of welfare clients.

Of the wheat sent to the elevator, the miller delivered to the WPA commodities warehouse in Washington 971,964 pounds of flour. The miller received for his labors 398,856 pounds of what is technically called offal—bran, middlings, etc.—as his pay.

The flour was received at the WPA commodities warehouse in 24-pound bags, to await requisition from the various cooperating welfare groups, each of which must be certified by the District of Columbia Board of Public Welfare. The Board acts as a clearing house for all recognized charities in Washington.

This system applies to every commodity handled by the WPA. The cash value of the goods distributed by the WPA in Washington during the past year totaled \$1,750,000, which was handled at a cost of but \$3,500 per month.

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# A City Under the X-ray

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*Blood will tell—if he has tuberculosis*

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**I**NCREASINGLY alarming is the true picture of tuberculosis in the District of Columbia as revealed by X-rays of a WPA fact-finding project initiated in the fall of 1935.

At that time, through no fault of their own, health authorities admittedly were more or less in the dark as to the actual extent of the disease's ravages in the Capital. It was known that the tuberculosis death rate in Washington was among the highest—if not the highest—in the country; it was known that tuberculosis deaths here were at the rate of 125 per 100,000 population, as compared with 57 per 100,000 for the Nation at large.

But definite data on the prevalence of tuberculosis in Washington was not available because statistics were based almost entirely on deaths and the number

of tubercular persons applying for hospital treatment.

Realizing that there must be thousands of cases of incipient tuberculosis unreported, and in many instances unknown to the victims, District health officials sought ways and means of compiling more complete data. But in this, as in so many cases of civic need, they were checkmated by the lack of funds and personnel.

On August 1, 1935, it was proposed that the Works Progress Administration in the District of Columbia make "an intensive and thorough examination to discover all cases of tuberculosis by the most modern methods, including chest X-rays."

The WPA Tuberculosis survey was launched under the direction of Mrs. Winifred Shepler, whose background and training emi-

nently fitted her for this important assignment.

The city was divided into sections, and it was decided to canvass one section at a time. "Floating" field headquarters units were set up (usually in a building obtained rent free) and the campaign began with the precision and thoroughness of a military detachment "mopping up" evacuated territory.

First the names and addresses of every person residing in the District were obtained. Then began an educational program of lectures, newspaper advertisements and form letters, with "lung consciousness" as its objective.

The lectures were delivered at headquarters units by prominent health authorities, and it was estimated that more than 25,000 persons attended the series.

The form letters—more than

250,000 were mailed—stressed the importance of applying for free clinical examination upon the first hint of tubercular symptoms. The letters also stressed the fact that many persons might have incipient tuberculosis without knowing it, and urged all citizens to report immediately all known or rumored cases in their neighborhood.

The response was immediate and gratifying. During the course of the drive 4,172 telephone reports came from men, and 5,317 from women, making a total of 9,484.

The educational campaign and telephoned reports were followed up by a house-to-house canvass. At each home WPA workers made a tactful but thorough investigation. Cards giving complete information on each case detected were filed at headquarters, and persistent efforts were made to get all known or suspected cases to report at special clinics for free examination, including chest X-rays.

Sufferers having a private physician were given the X-ray picture and examination data for transmission to their doctors. Victims having no family physician were enrolled for treatment. Every hospital in the city and

scores of doctors cooperated in this work.

A painstaking check was made on persons under treatment. In cases where patients were delinquent in reporting, a worker would make persistent visits and telephone calls in an effort to insure regular attendance.

The results of the survey, which ended last June, speak for themselves. In brief, 21,976 registered for X-ray examinations; 12,504 X-rays were taken; 12 per cent of all persons X-rayed were found to have tubercular infection; 32 per cent of all new cases were among persons under 24 years of age.

More than 20,000 homes were visited, and 13,000 cards were completed and filed. More than 500 were recalled for further X-ray examination

While the great majority of WPA workers who aided the survey have been dropped from the rolls or assigned to other projects, approximately a dozen were retained for the equally important task of following up known cases of tuberculosis, and seeing that patients avoid practices that may add to the disease's spread. This small force, under the direction of Bernard Nimro, assistant to the director, is also charged with

the task of seeing that patients continue to report for treatment regularly.

The WPA's Tuberculosis Survey was unique in health annals, in that it marked the first time that any community approached the tuberculosis problem along such comprehensive lines.

In expressing his appreciation for assistance the District of Columbia Works Progress Administration rendered his department in connection with the survey, Health Officer George C. Ruhland recently wrote Commissioner George E. Allen, District of Columbia WPA Administrator:

"The WPA appropriation of \$99,000 made possible case-finding work and a study of tuberculosis among residents of the District of Columbia which, for lack of funds, could not have been done otherwise. While this study has by no means cleared up the tuberculosis problem in the District, it has served to interest the popular mind in this problem and has created an opening toward better control of this disease. In this manner it has been most helpful to the development of a better tuberculosis program in the District of Columbia and has been most encouraging to me."



*Fresh air greatest enemy of the  
White Plague*



# A School Of Opportunity . . .

By  
*Claude D. Jones*  
Supt. National Training School  
for Boys

**WE** HAVE heard a great deal of discussion of the merits of the Federal Works Program, and have been directed to witness the obvious physical benefits accruing from the expenditure of huge sums of money for work-relief

We have been told how the WPA and the other reconstruction agencies have literally changed the topographical face of the nation. I, for one, concede all this. It is self-evident. But I should like to go further.

I want to call attention to that side of the Works Program which is not quite so obvious. There are intangible benefits which, in my mind, will accrue to all of us years after the physical evidences have disappeared. I know this is true in at least one small niche



*Col. Claude D. Jones*

of our society — the National Training School for Boys in the District of Columbia.

Let me state at the outset that the National Training School for Boys is not another penal institution. It is infinitely more than that. The school was established by an act of Congress as a detention home for anti-social boys in an age when "detention" plainly meant "penal." A later act of Congress changed the name of the school

to the National Training School for Boys, which indicated the function of the school to be training and education and shows the evolution of the philosophy of dealing with the delinquent boy. This is no prison we are running here, but a training school for the re-education and rehabilitation of delinquent boys.

Out here we have always tried to instill in our boys the feeling that this is their own school, their own home and community. We set up a complete social program and try to administer it in such a way as to remove all emphasis on the boys' pasts. There is a minimum of repression here.

Our program of training and treatment is based upon the fact that most of our boys come to us with certain handicaps—physical, mental or emotional. They have been denied a fair chance for self-expression and self-development in accordance with their needs. These handicaps and lack



*Boy's Training School Band is pride of the Institution*

of opportunities account for their maladjustment in most cases.

It is, therefore, our purpose to provide opportunity for a form of training and self-expression best suited to that boy's special nature and individual needs and one that will better enable him to meet the requirements of the social order. This is an "opportunity" school and our slogan is "An opportunity for every boy."

Have we succeeded in this program of social rehabilitation among our boys? If by success you mean whether or not our boys maintain a clear record after leaving our school, then I say emphatically that we have succeeded. A majority of our boys do not run afoul of the law a second time, after leaving the school.

The Federal Works Program has had a great social value in this "opportunity" school. Through playgrounds, athletic fields and drill field, it has enabled us to offer our boys more and better opportunities, to teach them the proper application of leisure time

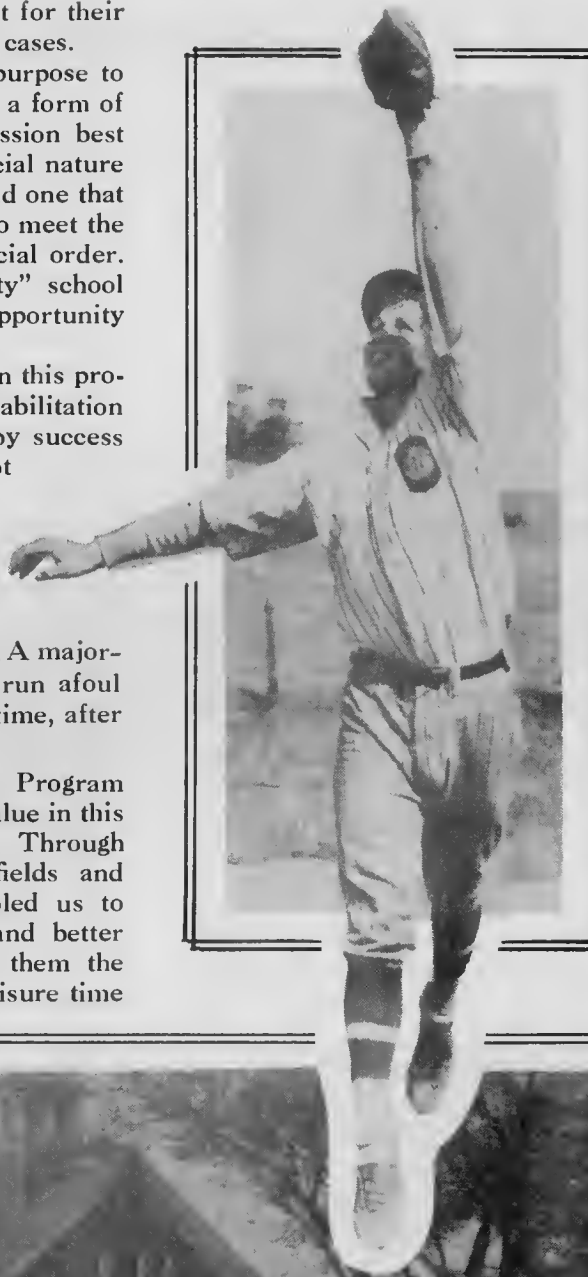
as one of the most valuable means of adjusting oneself to the mores of society and to realize the best effects of body building and the ethics of good sportsmanship as taught in athletics.

WPA has aided our community with a large program of landscaping—beautification of grounds, care of orchards and trees, building of walks and roads, and soil erosion control.

The program of the improvement of our boys' community in conditions pertaining to health, beautification, safety and sanitation is a result of the improvements afforded us by the WPA of our physical plant—all of which strengthens the morale and makes the community a better place in which to live.

The intangible benefit which WPA has afforded our boys is in the increasing of opportunities for those boys and the finer and more stable rehabilitation which will be theirs in the future.

The observer becomes aware of this instantly when he sees the enthusiasm displayed on the school's gridiron and the ceremony which our boys exhibit on their military drill field.



*Religious instruction is not neglected*

# An Artistic Renaissance



*Wood-carving comes into its own again*

**A**MERICAN art, sometimes called an adolescent step-child in its own country, is giving a substantial account of itself under the patronage of the Federal Government.

The Government is accomplishing this turn of fortune by employing 5,000 artists and craftsmen to conduct a public works art program based upon the same fundamentals upon which Pericles produced some of the deathless beauty of ancient Greece. Under this plan, native American art is receiving a new complexion, an altogether ruddier one. Government support is not only giving thousands of artists a sustaining wage but also enabling them to reciprocate with material contributions, embellishing public buildings throughout the country.

So today, approximately 18 months after the inception of the Federal Art Project, American

artists are placing their work before the widest and most enthusiastic public in the history of the nation.

As a result of the spreading field, young artists are learning that the world is much larger than the studio. In working on a project, the artist realizes he is working for the community. He is experiencing the satisfaction that his work is of wide public interest.

In the long process of conceiving a workable program to govern a somewhat new venture for this country, considerable criticism and ridicule have been evidenced. With hundreds of murals, scores of exhibitions of tangible results appearing all over the country, the attitude of critics has considerably softened.

During the depression one of the chief problems was that of preserving the skills of thousands of American men and women who were unemployed. Nowhere has this issue been so acute as in the field of the fine arts. The

skill of handling the brush and chisel is perhaps the most perishable talent with which men earn their living.

An exhibition, "New Horizons of American Art," representing the fruits of the first 18 months of the art program, was acclaimed by one New York critic with the following words:

"Through this exhibit the Project establishes its merit beyond dispute. The consistently high level of quality is maintained in many instances by names that would have remained utterly unknown except for this Government enterprise. Equally important through its allocations to schools, hospitals and other public institutions the work is reaching into many communities that have not so much as looked at art work before."

The exhibit outlines modern trends of art in this country. It is now touring principal cities, bringing to spectators murals, easel paintings, lithography, sculpturing and children's work. Murals, of course, are not shown in their entirety, but are demonstrated by models and photographs. Outstanding among these is the Federal Art Project's contribution to the Evander Childs High School in New York City. It is typical of the work now under way in many schools in all States. These murals have the vigor necessary to stir the imagination and increase the desire for education.

Although far from completion, finished sections of the "Index of American Design," a systematized pictorial record of artistic phases of American antiquity, indicate great promise. Before now, the task of preserving furnishings and designs of yesterday had been mostly cared for by museums and private collectors. These scattered collections, no matter how rare and interesting, cannot be conveniently studied. The Index will bring a graphic record of virtually all phases of art under one roof.

The index consists of portfolios of drawings and water colors of

antique furniture, pottery, silver, glass and other early craft work. Upon completion, plans call for the entire set to be reproduced and circulated to museums and libraries.

Significant of the Federal Art Project is the amount of energy and enthusiasm artists are showing in their oils and clays.

"In every section of the country," says Holgar Cahill, Federal Art Administrator, "there are honest, vigorous and independent artists whose work has the firm discipline and intelligent craftsmanship which give assurance of solid achievement in the present and stimulate high hopes for the future."

New "finds" in the ranks of federally employed artists are being revealed with encouraging frequency. Former teamsters, milkmen and industrial workers who had previously only dabbled in art during their spare hours are establishing reputations for themselves in their chosen field.

From New Mexico wood carvings placed before Eastern critics by a Spanish American have been received amid considerable enthusiasm. When discovered by the Art Project, the wood carver was an unemployed teamster.

Children's art produced under the art teaching project is finding itself one of the most vigorous features of the entire program. Under this set-up, experienced artists have been sent into schools and community centers to bring art to young aspirants.

The growth of the fine arts in the flourishing years preceding the depression paralleled somewhat the advance of industry. In the closing years of the last decade, oils were selling well and exhibitions were enthusiastically crowded with spectators. By 1932 all came to an abrupt halt; Americans were too busy caring for the shreds of their savings and looking to the stern business of supporting their families during bad times. In the wake of this, artists were forced to adapt themselves to new types of work and without the means or time to pursue their chosen profession.

For Governments to patronize the arts in good times or bad is by no means a new idea. Governments of every age and of every part of the world have employed artists—Egypt, Greece, Rome, Florence, Russia, Mexico, Austria and France.

Even the "golden days" of Greece, the Pharaohs of Egypt and Kings of Babylon instituted huge works programs which employed thousands of artists and craftsmen. In later years kings and princes carried the majority of art patronage.

In our times this fostering has by no means died. The French Government has pursued a liberal policy towards encouraging art and art education which has made France famous throughout the world. Great Britain has taken steps to foster the arts, as have Germany, Italy and Russia. Sweden has contributed to the industrial arts by a unique program of government-supervised crafts.

A striking illustration of governmental art education programs was introduced in the early 1920s by Mexico. Under the patronage of a liberal government, the Min-

istry of Education commissioned a group of artists to paint a series of murals for public buildings. With this start, Mexican muralists have made their mark throughout the world with their work.

And so today as the United States realizes the first fruits of the widest and most highly organized art program ever conceived by a Government or an individual, artists look with confidence to a movement that may take the uncertainty from the rewards of the arts. And, despite the salty cynicism of an ancient bard who said "Hunger is the best teacher of the arts," the profession of being an artist will some day be as sound as the painter's industriousness and as remunerative as the demands for his ability.



*The guiding hand*

## Progress

Progress welds men in a common  
cause;

A job to each combats the rot of rust.  
The clamor from the rising dam  
Drowns out the hollow knock of  
war.

Here, the spawn of lust can find  
No breeding place to strike youth  
into dust.

Work, mightier than the sword,  
Yea, mightier than the pen,  
Can, well-directed, bring  
Eternal peace to men.





## ***Pan American Temple of Peace***

**F**ORTY-SIX years after the founding of the Pan American Union, the 21 Republics comprising it are today in closer harmony than ever before. Peace has been made the foremost objective of the United States and her Latin-American neighbors—peace not only in the Western Hemisphere, but peace for the world.

First efforts for cooperation were made by these nations in 1826. Simon Bolivar, the "Great Liberator" who helped five nations win their independence, brought about this first meeting, and through his efforts a small body of delegates from several Republics gathered in Panama. Henry Clay led the movement to have President Adams urge Congress to send representatives, but the delegates appointed by the President did not arrive in time to attend the sessions of the conference.

Through the initiative of Secretary of State James G. Blaine, the United States in 1889 brought together in Washington delegates from 17 Republics. The conference resulted in organization of "The Commercial Bureau of American Republics," for the common benefit of member nations. The name was changed to "The Pan American Union" at the Fourth International Conference of American States at Buenos Aires in 1910.

Completion that year of the New Pan American Building did much to promote good feeling among the Latin Americas. It was erected at a cost of \$1,100,000, of which Andrew Carnegie contributed \$850,000 and the American Republics \$250,000. It is maintained and supported by the 21 Republics, the quotas being based on population.

For half a century these Republics have lived in relative peace, bound by common bonds of helpful cooperation. Only this month President Roosevelt carried the spirit of his "Good Neighbor" policy to the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace at Buenos Aires, where delegates heard his message of peace and cooperation.

As a result, member nations see more nearly eye to eye in the quest for unanimity. In the words of Andrew Carnegie, "May the Pan American Building become in fact a Temple of Peace."

